

**Fort Belknap Indian Community**

**EXHIBIT**

**DATE**

**Main Canal A Underdrain Rehabilitation Project**

A site visit was conducted in November 2011 to evaluate the current state of the Main Canal A Underdrain. The purpose of the site visit was to assess the Proposed Project Area and develop ideas to rehabilitate the Underdrain. During the visit, it was documented that the existing structure was in very poor condition. Basically, the Underdrain structure had failed and was acting more like a dam than a drainage for the D-3 Wasteway. The failed Underdrain was causing water to back up along the D-3 Wasteway and flood the adjacent lands, causing significant issues with crop production and soil quality. Additionally, the adjacent lands to the D-3 Wasteway were found to be experiencing soil salinity issues due to the flooding. The Wasteway failure and flooding are also resulting in significant ponding and subsequent infiltration loss of water that cannot return to the Milk River. Furthermore, the site visit revealed the potential for a Main Canal A wash out. This potential canal failure, caused by high flows within the D-3 Wasteway, could result in a significant water loss within the Main Canal A. The rehabilitation of the Main Canal A Underdrain is required in order to eliminate flooding, preserve crop production, preserve soil quality, improve management efficiency, and conserve water.

The improvements will result in improved conservation, management, development and preservation of land and water resources that are important to FBIP members. Without rehabilitation, the Main Canal A Underdrain will continue to cause flooding and will amount to a revenue loss of \$243,695.56 from reduced crop production.

The rehabilitation of the Main Canal A Underdrain will provide the following benefits:

- Conservation of approximately 626 million gallons of water each year in the Milk River
- Improved irrigation efficiency
- Increased crop production
- Improved soil quality
- Preservation of fish, wildlife, and recreational opportunities in the Milk River
- Restoration of lost revenues to the local economy
- Development of existing acres that were unable to be irrigated under previous water shortage conditions
- Sustained agricultural production

<b>Grant Request Amount:</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>
<b>FBIC Match Amount:</b>	<b>\$13,967.50</b>
<b>Estimated Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$113,967.50</b>

Fort Belknap Indian Community sincerely appreciates your consideration of this project and hopes that you will find it as important and necessary as our residents and your constituents have.



